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24 *Dr. Darwin's Speech to the Men of Nottingham, &c.*

apply for relief in vain: while amid the natives of those baronies the true spirit of their English ancestors is kept up, and begging looked upon as an indelible disgrace. None, indeed, are found to stand in need of assistance but the old, blind and infirm, and sometimes young children becoming orphans. All these are readily and cheerfully maintained by their neighbours, without the necessity of recurring to parochial rates or assessments which proves that this district is fully able to support its present population: and no apprehension of want need be entertained, even with a considerable increase of the number of its inhabitants.

The barony of Forth comprehends twenty-two parishes, including the town of Wexford, which is divided into four parishes within the walls, and three in the suburbs. That of Bargie contains thirteen parishes, and the population of both, from returns made in the year 1800, may be calculated as follows. The two baronies, exclusive of the town of Wexford, within the walls, and three in the suburbs. That of Bargie contains thirteen parishes, and the population of both, from returns made in the year 1800, may be calculated as follows. The two baronies, exclusive of the town of Wexford, within the walls, contain 39,275 acres, and 3,090 houses, which, at six to a house, will give 18,540 inhabitants: if we add to this, the population of Wexford, amounting to 5,922 souls, it will give 24,462 inhabitants in the two baronies; of which 1740 families are wholly employed in the cultivation of the soil, in such a manner as not only to support themselves in great ease and comfort, but to produce a surplus, forming a very considerable addition to the wealth and revenue of the kingdom. This surplus produce is chiefly barley and wheat, the potatoes and oats being considered as the food of the inhabi-

tants, although considerable quantities of both are sold in the town of Wexford, with great quantities of poultry, and abundance of pork, beef, mutton, and excellent veal; and there are also some dairies, where a considerable quantity of butter is made up for exportation, and some cheese; a considerable fishery for oysters lobster, turbot, and soles is carried on upon the coast. In the winter season also, the herrings make their appearance in considerable abundance: to which ought to be added immense flocks of wild-geon, barnacle, teal, guinard, ducks, geese, and wild swan, altogether forming an abundance not only of the necessities, but of the luxuries of life, not to be surpassed in any districts of the British Islands.

The parishes on the sea-coast are divided into small holdings of five, six, ten, and sometimes twenty acres, on which is exhibited that wonderful industry and exertion, which never fails to take place in Ireland, where the inhabitants have any security by leases, for the enjoyment of the fruit of their labour, however small the extent of the field they have to cultivate.

On contemplating the appearance of such a state of society, who would not be led to wish that such were the state of the whole island, and not of this island only, but of many extensive districts both in the north and south of the sister island, as also to investigate the causes, and point out the probable remedies which prevent the same appearance from striking the eye of the traveller, and attracting the attention of the philosopher. But we state facts, and leave to others to draw conclusions.

Frazer's Survey of Wexford.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
A PERIODICAL work may be very useful in disseminating

hints on interesting subjects, which may thus find their way into the hands of those to whom larger treatises are not familiar.

Fresh air essentially promotes health, and yet the free admission of it is not sufficiently attended to....An Acriphobia, or a dread of air, is a too common prejudice. If we look at the crowded drawing-rooms of the rich, which, however spacious, are frequently over-crowded, and to which fresh air is denied admittance, or to the close damp rooms of the poor, who, however exposed to the open air during a great part of the day, seem to consider windows that will open not necessary to their health, we may see the necessity of more care being taken to ventilate their rooms.

I was lately reading the life of Dr. Darwin, written by Anne Seward, and was much pleased with a speech, which in a moment of high excitement, he made to the inhabitants of Nottingham on a market-day, when suddenly mounting on an eminence, he thus addressed them :

“ Ye men of Nottingham listen to me. You are ingenious and industrious mechanics. By your industry life's comforts are procured for yourselves and families. If you lose your health, the power of being industrious will forsake you. *That* you know ; but you may *not* know, that to breathe fresh and changed air constantly, is not less necessary to preserve health, than sobriety itself. Air becomes unwholesome in a few hours if the windows are shut. Open those of your sleeping-rooms whenever you quit them to go to your work-shops. Keep the windows of your work-shops open whenever the weather is not insupportably cold. I have no *interest* in giving you this advice. Remember what I, your countryman, and a physician tell you. If you would not bring infection and disease upon yourselves, and on your wives and little

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ones, change the air you breathe ; change it many times in a day, by opening your windows.”

If the insertion of such useful hints are deemed to come within the plan of the Belfast Magazine, I shall probably communicate some from time to time, and I hope others will follow the example. By the communication of useful detached hints, the fragments of the feasts of “bookish hours,” perhaps real information may be more readily given, than in more pompous forms.

A READER.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

LISBURN HUMANE SOCIETY.

IN former days, Societies were formed for mutual defence : the arm of the Law not possessing strength sufficient to curb the violence of a people emerging from a state of barbarism, the weak were obliged to invent some means of supplying its deficiencies. By uniting in mutual confederacies they could baffle those attempts on their properties or lives, which they would have been unable singly to resist. The present is also an age of Societies, but instituted for different reasons. They are now formed not to remedy the weakness of the law ; or to stand in its place where it ought to act ; but to effect purposes to which it could not extend.

We have Societies for the promotion of knowledge, for the encouragement of virtue ; for the suppression of vice ; and it is no small recommendation of the Constitution under which we live, that it infuses the spirit of liberty, which is its vital principle, even into those voluntary associations with which it seems to have so little connection. On the Continent, Societies formed for such purposes, stand or fall at the will of the prince to whom they owe their existence. Here they rise from the unsupported exertions of private persons, on them

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